Registered No. M.—1175.

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The Mysore Gazette.

Vol. 55.] PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY. [No. 11.

BANGALORE, THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1920.

PART II.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.

Food Situation for the week ending 28th February 1920.

Brief abstract of the special reports regarding the Food Situation for the week ending 28th February 1920.

Bangalore City.—During the week under report, 197 carts of ragi and 23 carts of paddy came into the bazaar as against 176 carts of ragi and 35 carts of paddy in the previous week.

The price of ragi ranged from Rs. 71 to Rs. 90 per cart during the week against Rs. 80 to Rs. 99 per cart in the previous week.

There is sufficient stock of rice and ragi in the bazaar for consumers to buy.

The Municipal Depot and the three Test Depots are selling to the poor Rangoon rice at 4¾ seers. Delta rice at 4¾ seers and broken rice at 6½ seers a rupee. The importers are also selling Delta rice to the public.

Mysore City.—Situation remains the same.

Bangalore District.—There was no rain during the week. The standing crops, *viz.*, sugar-cane, Bengal gram, coriander and Vaisakhi paddy are in good condition. Threshing of ragi, togari, avare and horse gram is nearly completed.

The supply in the market though still limited is getting to be easier. Some quantity of Burma rice has been placed in the market and is sold at 4½ to 4¾ seers a rupee. Local rice sells at 3½ to 4½ seers and the price varies according to time and places.

The Co-operative Societies are selling imported rice. A small stock of 1,000 bags of Burma rice has been received for this district and it is kept for the present as a reserve.

Mysore District.—There is no change in the situation.

Markets are well supplied, but the prices of all food grains still remain high.

No signs of any distress.

Tumkur District.—Markets are well supplied. Price of ragi continues as in the last week; ragi is selling at 8 seers a rupee. There is no change in the price of paddy. Demand for Burma rice still exists. Out of the January allotment, 660 bags of Rangoon rice have been received of which 100 have been sent to Tiptur.

Kolar District.—Part of the January allotment of 400 tons of Burma rice arrived at Bowringpet and it had the marvellous effect of reducing the price of ragi by Rs. 2 per cart. Ragi is now being sold from 6 to 6½ seers per rupee. The arrival of more Burma rice is likely to make ragi cheaper.

All the Taluk Depots are being replenished with sufficient stock and retail sales are being conducted on the Ticket system.

The effect of restrictions on exports of food grains in lowering the prices is being watched.

Hassan District.—The *santhes* were fairly well supplied with food grains. Ragi is not so freely coming into the market as rice.

Paddy and rice are being exported from the santhes in the district to Bangalore, Bowringpet and other places in the State.

Standing crops such as sugar-cane and *Kar paddy* are in a good condition.

Prices of food grains still continue to be high, and the price of chillies is also rising.

The prospects of the season are generally good for the present.

Shimoga District.—There has been no change in the food situation in the district during the last week. At the last Ainur shandy rice of the first sort sold at 3½ to 4 seers per rupee and rice of second sort at 4½ seers per rupee. Large exports of rice and paddy, ragi and jola into Davangere and Harihar, from the shandies at Ainur and Shiralkoppa have been reported. This has brought about a general rice in the prices of these commodities.

The notifications about the restrictions recently sanctioned upon the traffic in food grains within the five mile belt of the frontier have been widely published. Necessary instructions have also been issued to the Ookad staff and the frontier Police.

Kadur District.—All the markets in the district were well supplied with food stuffs, but the prices, as usual, were high and there appears to be no tendency for them to go down. At Chikmagalur, rice was sold at 4 to 5½ seers and ragi at 7 to 8 seers a rupee. At Koppa, rice was sold at 5 to 5½ seers a rupee as against 5¾ seers in the previous week. At Narasimharajapura, rice was being sold at 5 to 7 seers a rupee.

During the week no rainfall has been reported from any taluk in the district.

Chitaldrug District.—The prices of controlled food grains continue to be the same as in last week.

Navane which is one of the staple food grains, used by a large section of the population in this district is being largely exported by rail outside the State to Dharwar and other places. The Food Controller and Director of Civil Supplies has been addressed in the matter requesting him to move the Government to bring this commodity at once under control.

The local officers have in the meanwhile been instructed to use their moral influence with the stock-holders and pursuade them to make their stock available for consumption within the State.

One thousand bags of Burma rice have been indented for, for the depots to be re-opened at Davangere, Harihar and Holalkere.

General (By Food Controller).—The general situation throughout the State remains unchanged. There is no complaint of shortage of supplies in the markets. The prices still remain high. The Deputy Commissioner of Kolar reports that the arrival of Burma rice had brought down the price of ragi slightly. As large quantities of Burma rice are expected early there is the hope of prices going down, though only to a small extent.

Out of the February allotment of Burma rice, about 2,000 tons have arrived in Madras and intimation has been received that the consignments are being loaded on waggons and booked by railway to the destinations specified. This rice can be sold at Bangalore at 5 seers a rupee.

As supplies of Burma rice have been assured it has become possible to issue the old Delta rice stored in the Provincial Depot in small quantities for *bona-fide* domestic consumption. As the price of this rice is very favourable the concession is being very freely availed of.

C. S. BALASUNDARAM IYER,
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